



U.S. Department of Justice  
**OVW**  
Office on Violence Against Women  
Working Together to End the Violence

## FY 2024 Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program

### New Grantee Orientation

Date: January 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Location: Golden Nugget Resort Hotel, 1100 Nugget Ave, Sparks NV

**Day 1 – Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**  
**9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

<b>8:30 am - 9:00 am</b>	<b>Registration and Check-In</b> Location: Sierra Foyer
<b>9:00 am - 9:15 am</b>	<b>Welcome and Overview of the Agenda and Rural Program</b> Location: Sierra 5 <i><u>Presenters:</u> Krista Blakeney-Mitchell and Stevi Black, OVW</i>
<b>9:15 am -10:45 am</b>	<b>Working with Survivors at the Intersection: Trauma and Substance Use</b> Location: Sierra 5 <i><u>Presenter:</u> Christina Love, Christina Love Consulting</i> Description: This training session delves into the pivotal role of advocacy in aiding survivors who use substances. Our goal is to empower advocates to understand how these experiences intersect and equip them with the necessary tools to support survivors with complex needs effectively.
<b>10:45 am - 11:00 am</b>	<b>BREAK (15 mins)</b>
<b>11:00 am - 12:00 pm</b>	<b>The Roots of Gender-Based Violence in Rural Communities</b> Location: Sierra 5 <i><u>Presenters:</u> Kata Issari and Bree Adams Bill, Praxis International</i> <b>Description:</b> Ending gender-based violence in rural communities requires understanding its root causes. This session will provide an overview of how gender-based violence is maintained by, and connected to, other forms of oppression. Effectively prioritizing the unique needs of rural survivors, including the

	<p>inequities and complexities present in their lives, elevates our ability to offer support. Participants will consider the causes of gender-based violence through an anti-oppression framework and how rural regions experience gender-based violence differently than urban areas.</p>
<p><b>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH (90 mins on your own)</b></p>
<p><b>1:30 pm - 3:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b></p>
	<p><b>Breakout I</b></p> <p><b>Intergenerational Partnerships: Teen Dating Violence Prevention &amp; Response in Rural Communities</b></p> <p>Location: Sierra 1</p> <p><i><u>Presenters:</u> Bibiana Ortiz, Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence and Jessica Moreno, Collective Capacity</i></p> <p><b>Description:</b> Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Response in Rural Communities is an interactive workshop focused on engaging young people in the prevention of teen dating violence through intergenerational partnerships and youth-centered, trauma-informed response services to young people, with a focus on Black, Indigenous and youth of color, youth with disabilities, Deaf or hard of hearing youth, LGBTQ+ youth, youth who have been resettled through the refugee process, youth immigrants, and youth who are in the juvenile system or systems involved. This workshop will launch the 2025 National Teen Dating Violence Awareness &amp; Prevention Month campaign – <b>Love Languages in Healthy Relationships</b>. A campaign envisioned and led by young people. We will engage in interactive activities throughout our time together to build our collective understanding of the possibilities in the prevention and response to teen dating violence.</p> <p><b>Breakout II</b></p> <p><b>Solution to Your Training Challenges: The SAMFE Virtual Practicum</b></p> <p>Location: Sierra 2</p> <p><i><u>Presenter:</u> Grace Frances, EVAWI</i></p> <p><b>Description:</b> Is maintaining the proficiency of your Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) a challenge in your community? Do the medical providers who aren't SANE-trained need guidance on providing compassionate care for survivors?</p> <p>Could your law enforcement officers and prosecutors benefit from enhanced training on culturally sensitive responses? Are new staff and volunteers waiting months for opportunities to shadow a medical forensic exam?</p> <p>If you answered yes to any of these questions, the <a href="#">Sexual Assault Medical</a></p>

[Forensic Exam \(SAMFE\) Virtual Practicum](#) is the resource you've been looking for. This free online tool offers practical, survivor-centered training on every step of the medical forensic exam. It also supports advocates, law enforcement, and legal professionals in improving their responses to survivors.

Join this session to discover how the SAMFE Virtual Practicum can address these training gaps in your community, enhance multidisciplinary collaboration, and improve care for diverse populations.

Objectives:

1. Develop strategies to integrate the SAMFE Virtual Practicum into training programs for nurses and hospital personnel.
2. Explore creative ways to use the Practicum, from Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) meetings and skills labs to onboarding new staff and volunteers and conducting community trainings.
3. Describe how this resource can help communities deliver better care for survivors from different populations.

### **Breakout III**

#### **Working with Rural Faith Leaders to Address Domestic and Sexual Violence**

Location: Sierra 3

*Presenters: Rev. Dr. Anne Marie Hunter and Alyson Morse Katzman, Safe Havens*

**Description:** Working with Faith Leaders to Address Domestic and Sexual Violence is an opportunity for rural grantees to learn about the importance of working with faith leaders and faith communities. Given that faith is an important support for many rural survivors experiencing abuse, we will take time to: explore why partnerships with faith communities will increase access to your services, consider some barriers to collaboration and ways to overcome those barriers, discuss the roles that faith leaders and communities can play, and learn how Safe Havens can provide support.

### **Breakout IV**

#### **Using VAWA to Maintain Safe Housing for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence in Rural Communities**

Location: Sierra 4

*Presenters: Natalie N. Maxwell, National Housing Law Project and Andrea Miller, ZeroV*

	<p><b>Description:</b> This workshop will provide an overview of the Violence Against Women Act’s housing protections and key changes with the 2022 reauthorization. This workshop will also discuss strategies for addressing the unique housing needs and challenges faced by survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking living in rural communities.</p>
<b>3:00 pm - 3:20 pm</b>	<b>BREAK (20 mins)</b>
<b>3:20 pm - 4:55 pm</b>	<p><b>Regional Project Activity</b></p> <p>Location: Sierra 5</p> <p><i><u>Facilitators:</u> Stevi Black and Amber Hilton, OVW</i></p> <p>Please check your nametag for your table assignments. You will be at the first table assignment for 45 minutes and then you will be at the second table assignment for another 45 minutes.</p>
<b>4:55 pm - 5:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Wrap Up and Adjourn</b></p> <p>Location: Sierra 5</p> <p><i><u>Facilitators:</u> OVW Rural Unit Staff</i></p> <p>Remaining questions from the day are answered and logistical directions are given for the following day of training.</p>
<b>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Optional “Office-Hours” with OVW Program Managers</b></p> <p>Location: Sierra 5</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Opportunity to meet with OVW Program Managers. You can sign up for office-hours at the registration table.</p>

**Day 2 –Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**  
**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

<p><b>8:00 am - 8:45 am</b></p>	<p><b>Optional “Office-Hours” with OVW Program Managers</b>          Location: Sierra 5  <b>Description:</b> Opportunity to meet with OVW Program Managers. You can sign up for office-hours at the registration table.</p>
<p><b>9:00 am - 10:15am</b></p>	<p><b>Trauma Informed Meaningful Access and Effective Communication with Clients with Limited-English Proficiency</b>          Location: Sierra 5  <i>Presenter: Cannon Han, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence</i>  <b>Description:</b> This session will be addressing language access, broadly, and will also focus on: Title VI language access requirements, the importance of trauma informed meaningful access and how to effectively communicate with clients with limited-English proficiency.</p>
<p><b>10:15 am - 10:30 am</b></p>	<p><b>BREAK (15 mins)</b></p>
<p><b>10:30 am - 12:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b></p>
	<p><b>Breakout I</b>  <b>Best Practices for Serving Immigrant Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence in Rural Communities</b>          Location: Sierra 1  <i>Presenter: Rafaela Rodrigues, American University</i>  <b>Description:</b> Victim advocates and attorneys play a crucial role helping immigrant domestic violence, child/elder abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking victims gain access to justice and the full range of services and assistance they are legally entitled to receive. This training will provide an overview of the paths to legal immigration status for survivors of crime and abuse and discuss how helping immigrant victims file for immigration relief provides VAWA confidentiality protections that can improve outcomes in victim’s family court cases. Lawyers and victim advocates will learn some of the best practices for addressing the special issues that arise for immigrant survivors in protection order, custody, divorce, and child support proceedings.</p>

The training will also discuss how filing for immigration relief expands access to publicly funded benefits and services for immigrant victims and their children in rural communities. Participants will build skills to identify the benefits for which immigrant victims qualify using NIWAP's public benefits map and state-by-state charts. The training will highlight best practices for accompanying immigrant survivors applying for benefits they or their children are eligible to receive. Attendees learn about NIWAP's technical assistance, materials, tools, directory, web library, training (virtual and in-person), and community of practice peer-to-peer ongoing learning opportunities that NIWAP offers to support rural grantees and their partners.

## **Breakout II**

### **Cultivating Well-being for Ourselves and Survivors**

Location: Sierra 2

Presenters: *Kata Issari and Bree Adams Bill, Praxis International*

**Description:** The work to end gender-based violence exacts a high cost on our bodies, our minds, and our spirits. Too often, our health is secondary to our work and support of survivors. Might ignoring our well-being limit our ability to care for others? Cultivating our wellness sustains us in our work to end gender-based violence and enhances our ability to support survivors. This workshop will share strategies to strengthen staff wellness and support the wellbeing of survivors. Participants will engage in a variety of activities to address their personal wellbeing while also building their knowledge and skills about addressing vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue. All activities may be used by staff and shared with survivors.

## **Breakout III**

### ***Bonds & Boxes: Boundary Skill Building with Sexual Violence Survivors***

Location: Sierra 3

Presenter: *LaShae Lopez, Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault*

**Description:** This practical, hands-on session is designed to give the participants resources to reference and tangible tools to use when working with sexual violence survivors. Participants will:

- Understand the importance of connection as a part of healing for rural sexual violence survivors
- Reflect on the impact of boundaries in the lives of sexual violence survivors
- Develop their ability to assist survivors with "boundary work" as a part of support services

## **Breakout IV**

	<p><b>Tribal Victim Dynamics and the Path to Being a Good Relative</b></p> <p>Location: Sierra 4</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> <i>Keely Linton, Strong Hearted Native Women’s Coalition</i></p> <p><b>Description:</b> This presentation will explore the unique barriers and safety concerns faced by tribal victims, shedding light on the complexities of victimization within Indigenous communities. We will examine how myths, stereotypes, and historical biases continue to impact tribal members, perpetuating harmful misconceptions and systemic challenges.</p> <p>The discussion will also highlight the profound importance of <i>being a good relative</i>, a concept rooted in Indigenous values of mutual respect, accountability, and community care. Attendees will gain valuable insights into how their agency or program can meaningfully support and collaborate with tribal nations, tribal programs, and communities. By building authentic partnerships grounded in cultural understanding and shared responsibility, organizations can help strengthen the resilience of tribal peoples, while ensuring that their work is aligned with tribal sovereignty and healing practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendees will learn how persistent myths and stereotypes about Tribal peoples affect victims, and how to challenge these misconceptions within their organizations and communities.</li> <li>• The presentation will provide an overview of resources specifically designed for tribal victims, and discuss how these resources can be leveraged to offer more targeted and culturally relevant support.</li> <li>• Attendees will gain meaningful strategies for fostering genuine, collaborative relationships with tribal nations, ensuring that their agencies or programs align with tribal needs.</li> <li>• Attendees will gain tools for supporting and advocating for tribal victims in culturally sensitive ways.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH (90 mins on your own)</b></p>
<p><b>1:30 pm - 3:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Shaping Tomorrow: How Collaborative Leadership Can Transform the Response to Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Communities</b></p> <p>Location: Sierra 5</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> <i>Chief Deputy John Guard</i></p> <p><b>Description:</b> In rural jurisdictions, it is imperative for all criminal justice and community partners to work together to comprehensively support victims of violence and provide the needed resources. Whether it is the development of a SART or a coordinated community response, the creation of an audit process or response review, or cross-training or educational support, collaborative leadership can strengthen the response to cases, and increase victim safety and offender accountability.</p>
<p><b>3:00 pm - 3:15 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Break (15 mins)</b></p>

<p><b>3:15 pm - 3:45 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Recap, FAQs, and Working with your Grant Manager</b></p> <p>Location: Sierra 5</p> <p><i><u>Facilitators:</u> Rachel Strasinger, Holly Meyer, and Stevi Black, OVW</i></p> <p><b>Description:</b> Answering frequently asked questions, reminders about managing your Rural award, and tips for successfully working with your OVW Grant Manager.</p>
<p><b>3:45 pm - 4:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Wrap Up and Adjourn</b></p> <p><i><u>Facilitators:</u> OVW Rural Unit Staff</i></p>

Please visit the Rural Program orientation webpage for materials and resources.



Rural Orientation Page

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